United Nations A/ES-10/534 S/2011/629

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 10 October 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up of my letter of 30 September 2011, I regret to inform you that the situation of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees being illegally imprisoned and detained by Israel, the occupying Power, continues to be grave and the conditions in which they are being held continue to deteriorate due to escalating violations against them by the occupying Power, in violation of international law, including international humanitarian law.

As noted earlier, Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention centres began an open-ended hunger strike on 27 September 2011 to protest against a series of oppressive measures by the occupying Power that threaten their lives and deprive them of their basic human rights, guaranteed to them under international law. In this regard, Israel has continued its inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees via a series of illegal and harsh measures, such as collective punishment, which includes forcing them to live in unsanitary and unhygienic conditions; denial of health care; restrictions on family visits; solitary confinement for long periods of time, with some held in isolation for at least 10 years; deprivation of the prisoners' right to education; forced night-time searches of prisoners' cells; and denial of due process. In addition to such measures, in violation of the prisoners' basic human rights, the occupying Power continues to subject Palestinian prisoners and detainees to all forms of psychological and physical maltreatment, such as cuffing their feet and hands, measures of humiliation and intimidation, forced interrogations and, in many cases, torture.

It should be noted that the situation of Palestinian prisoners deteriorated even further after the declaration by the Israeli Prime Minister in June of this year of his plans to further "toughen" conditions on the more than 6,000 Palestinian civilians, including at least 280 children and 38 women, as well as 22 elected officials, who continue to be imprisoned or arbitrarily detained by Israel. Just this past Thursday,

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6 October 2011, six more Palestinians, including three children aged 15, 16 and 17, were arbitrarily detained by the occupying forces in Beit Ummar and Al-Khalil (Hebron), adding to the thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees mentioned above.

It is imperative to stress that, as the occupying Power, Israel remains bound by numerous obligations under international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, with regard to all of its actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including vis-à-vis the civilians it imprisons or detains. Article 76 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War clearly defines the rights of protected persons faced with detention by an occupying Power. Among those rights is the right to remain in the occupied territory during all stages of the detention, including during the serving of prison sentences if convicted, a right that is clearly being violated by the occupying Power as a result of its transfer of prisoners and detainees to areas inside Israel.

The current hunger strike brings the serious matter of the Palestinian civilians being held captive by Israel, the occupying Power, to the fore. The international community must act urgently to address this issue and uphold international law. It has a duty to compel Israel to immediately release the thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees it is holding, including the women, children and elected officials. Until they are released, the international community must hold Israel responsible for the lives and well-being of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and must demand that the occupying Power respect its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, vis-à-vis its treatment of these protected persons. Their lives are imperilled by the ill treatment they are subjected to while incarcerated by Israel, and their plight has become more acute due to this hunger strike intended to call attention to their dire situation. In this regard, I must inform you that, since 1967, at least 202 Palestinians have already died in Israeli jails due to torture, deprivation of health treatment and deliberate killing.

Today, I am also compelled to inform you of acts of violence and terrorism that continue to be perpetrated by illegal Israeli settlers in recent weeks against Palestinian civilians and their properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The escalating acts of violence, lawlessness and terror being perpetrated by the more than half a million Israeli settlers, many of whom are armed, include the killing of a Palestinian and the serious injury of a disabled person and a youth in a hit-and-run accident in Al-Khalil and the Ramallah area; the burning of the Qusra mosque and the desecration of mosques in the villages of Bir Zeit, Deir Istiya and Yetma; the uprooting, burning and destruction of over 3,000 olive trees and grapevines; the burning of 20 dunums of agricultural land in Bi'lin in response to weekly peaceful protests against the illegal wall; the flooding of 40 dunums of agricultural land in Walaja with sewage from nearby settlements; the burning and destruction of 63 dunums of agricultural land in the villages of Halhoul, Jeet and Deir Dibwan; and the constant harassment and humiliation of Palestinians, including children, on a daily basis by settlers. Such illegal actions by Israeli settlers occur in full view of the occupying forces, who continue to take no action to hold these settlers accountable for their actions and continue to provide them with impunity and protection while they are carrying out these crimes.

The above constitute further confirmation of the dire situation that prevails in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which requires the

international community's urgent attention. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held responsible for its illegal and provocative actions. The international community cannot continue to stand idly by as the occupying Power perpetrates its criminal and inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The international community cannot continue to stand idly by as Israel continues to colonize the Palestinian territory, allowing its illegal settlers to rampage unbridled and to incrementally destroy the viability of the two-State solution for peace. The international community, including the Security Council, must exert timely efforts, including practical measures, to uphold the legal obligation to protect the Palestinian civilian population under occupation, including the prisoners and detainees, to enforce international law and to salvage the chances of achieving peace and security.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 405 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 September 2011 (A/ES-10/533-S/2011/606) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/535–S/2011/645

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 17 October 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write to express our grave concern and total objection to the illegal unilateral actions that continue to be aggressively perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In flagrant contradiction of all relevant provisions of international law and of the efforts being exerted by the international community to revive the peace process, Israel continues its rabid settlement campaign, colonizing the Territory and harming the chances for a resumption of the political process.

On Friday, 14 October 2011, Israel, the occupying Power, authorized the construction of 2,610 illegal settlement units in the Beit Safafa neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem. This plan is part of an ongoing Israeli effort to expand the illegal settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem at an unprecedented rate. The illegal settlement "Givat Hamatos" is of particularly grave concern, as its expansion will complete the cordon of illegal settlements built by the occupying Power around East Jerusalem in an attempt to sever its connection with the rest of the West Bank.

We reaffirm that, under international law, all Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are illegal and constitute a grave violation of Israel's obligations as an occupying Power. Such actions are also contradictory to Israel's obligations under the road map to freeze all settlement activities. Further, there is an international consensus that these unilateral actions undermine the viability of the two-State solution and constitute a serious obstacle to peace. In this regard, we view Israel's insistence on colonizing the Palestinian land by expanding the settlement regime as a clear indication that this Government is neither committed to peace nor willing to respect international law, including United Nations resolutions.

Clearly, the latest Israeli settlement announcement is not an isolated event, as reflected in our recent letters to you on this matter and the relevant reports of United Nations bodies and agencies. The construction of approximately 30,000 new

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settlement housing units in Occupied East Jerusalem is either ongoing or in the final planning stages. Such illegal actions are clearly aimed at altering the status, character and demographic composition of the occupied city. Indeed, in addition to illegally confiscating land and constructing settlements, Israel continues to apply a host of other illegal measures aimed at driving out the indigenous Palestinian population, including the demolition of homes (the occupying Power has demolished at least 31 Palestinian residential buildings, leaving 106 Palestinian civilians, including 61 children, homeless since the start of this year), the revocation of residency rights, the continued closure of Palestinian institutions in the city and the recent decision to ban social activists from travelling to other parts of the West Bank, effectively severing them from their work and familial relations with their natural surroundings.

Today, I must also call your attention once again to the critical situation of Palestinian prisoners as a result of the ongoing hunger strike, entered into on 27 September 2011 in protests of the punitive and illegal measures taken against them by the occupying Power, foremost of which the solitary confinement policy. Most regrettably, the health situation of the prisoners participating in the hunger strike, today in its twenty-first day, has gravely deteriorated. We express our serious concern for the prisoners' well-being and fear for the lives of some of them, such as Ahmad Saadat, who is said to be gravely ill. Mr. Saadat has been kept in solitary confinement since 2006 and, like many of the prisoners, has already lost over 10 kg during the hunger strike.

We hold Israel, the occupying Power, fully responsible for the lives and well-being of all the Palestinian prisoners who have resorted to this peaceful measure of protest against Israel's extreme abuse and intransigence. We call on the international community to take all possible measures, in accordance with international law, to compel the occupying Power to halt its illegal measures and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners and to urgently allow access to the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and detention centres to ensure that they are receiving proper medical care and are not forced to endure inhumane treatment and conditions.

Persistent Israeli violations of international law, United Nations resolutions and all international commitments made, particularly through the destructive settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continue to poison the environment between the two sides and, if not ceased, will sabotage the efforts to resume the political progress aimed at achieving the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. The contiguity and integrity of the Territory is being marred with every passing day by these illegal Israeli policies and practices, as is the viability of the two-State solution itself. The time for action by the international community to reverse this downward spiral is now, and we urge all concerned, including the Security Council, to uphold the law and their responsibilities before the prospects for peace slip even further.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 406 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 10 October 2011 (A/ES-10/534-S/2011/629) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State

terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/536–S/2011/665

General Assembly
Security Council

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27 October 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 26 October 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write today to express our grave concern about the incitement by Israel's Foreign Minister against President Mahmoud Abbas. On 24 October, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who is the main coalition partner of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, declared that President Abbas was the "greatest obstacle" to peace. The daily Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* quoted Mr. Lieberman as stating, "If there is one obstacle that should be removed immediately, it is [Abbas]".

We unequivocally reject and object to such incitement, which we consider to be a clear threat against the life of President Mahmoud Abbas, whose commitment to peace is absolutely unquestionable, as well as to the prospects for peace. Further, we consider the statement to be the official policy of Israel, the occupying Power, and thus demand that the Israeli Government disavow such provocative statements and incitement to violence. Indeed, we voice our concern that these hostile declarations in fact reflect the true intentions of the Israeli Government, which has deliberately obstructed peace efforts and systematically invested in flagrant violations of international law and the continued illegal colonization of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Moreover, we believe that such threats must be directly confronted, for they foment hatred and violence towards the Palestinian people and their leadership and exacerbate the already high tensions and deep mistrust between the two sides, leading to a further destabilization of the situation.

Today, we must also reaffirm our condemnation and total objection to the plans by Israel, the occupying Power, to build a new illegal settlement in Occupied East Jerusalem. The planning of another huge new settlement does not bode well for the peace process and yet again reflects that Israel has no intention of ceasing this illegal and destructive colonization campaign and is not interested in the two-State solution for peace that we and the rest of the international community are striving to achieve. It has become clear that the plans for the illegal settlement of "Givat

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Hamatos" will contain at least 4,000 settlement units and will complete the encirclement of Occupied East Jerusalem and effectively sever that city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the city's southern environs in the Bethlehem area.

Additionally, the occupying Power has illegally confiscated 37 dunums of land in the town of Beit Jala to expand the construction of its illegal wall. In addition to causing harm to the families in Beit Jala, this latest confiscation confirms the worst fears of residents in the nearby village of Al-Walaje, who will now be trapped in a so-called "seam zone" as a result of this illegal measure. Yesterday, 25 October, Israel, the occupying Power, also closed down three Palestinian organizations in Occupied East Jerusalem, hence continuing its systematic efforts to void the city of its indigenous Palestinian population and culture.

Today, the members of the Quartet are meeting with the parties in an effort to secure the return to a credible political process aimed at ending Israel's 44-year-old military occupation and achieving peace, security and coexistence between the two sides. And while such efforts are exerted by the many concerned members of the international community, Israel continues to work directly against these aims, once again answering with unilateralism, intransigence and abject disregard for the unanimous will of the international community. This intransigence must not be met with accommodation. Instead, the international community must serve the cause of peace and confront these objectionable actions by insisting on the application of the only acceptable terms for a credible political process, i.e. international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The international community must not allow a belligerent occupying Power to hold the fate of a region and the prospects for peace hostage to its insatiable appetite for colonization, hegemony and oppression. We call on you, acting on behalf of the international community, to exert the necessary efforts at this critical juncture to ensure that international law is respected and that Israel, the occupying Power, ceases all of its illegal measures and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and ceases its hostile incitement and aggression against the Palestinian people and their leadership and instead commits to compliance with its obligations in international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. In the absence of this, we regret that all of our efforts towards a peaceful settlement in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders will be totally undermined and undone.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 407 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 October 2011 (A/ES-10/535-S/2011/645) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/537–S/2011/676

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Security Council

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2 November 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 1 November 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write today to express our grave concern about the military escalation undertaken by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Gaza Strip. Over the past four days, Israeli air strikes have killed at least 11 Palestinians and injured scores. This has included Israel's carrying out of extrajudicial executions, which are strictly prohibited under international law. This escalation, initiated by Israel, the occupying Power, in an air strike that killed five Palestinians on 29 October 2011, triggered a serious deterioration in the situation on the ground. In this regard, we express our gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its efforts to reinstate calm and stop Israel from carrying out a full-fledged aggression against the besieged Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, we affirm our position that one-sided statements and comments on this escalation are neither helpful nor acceptable. The deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip is due first and foremost to the fact that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to violate its obligations under international law and maintains an inhumane and brutal blockade of the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. On a daily basis, Israel violates the most basic rights, including the right to life, education, livelihood and housing, and countless other fundamental rights of over 1.5 million Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. Israel continues to act with abject disregard of international law and the obligations it outlines for occupying Powers, which Israel remains with its perpetuation of its now 44-year occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Palestinian leadership has urged all Palestinian factions to act responsibly and to advance the interests of the Palestinian people by maintaining calm in the Gaza Strip and respecting international law. However, this principled position does not absolve Israel of its responsibilities as an occupying Power, nor does it excuse its acts of aggression and violence. In this regard, we note with alarm the repeated calls by senior Israeli government officials, including Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, for a full-scale aggression and ground invasion of the Gaza Strip, in

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addition to repeated hostile declarations and incitement against the Palestinian people and their leadership. Here, we stress our alarm at such open calls for unchecked violence and aggression like those wrought on the Gaza Strip during Israel's brutal war three years ago. We need not remind you that during this war, which caused thousands of deaths and injuries, decimated Gaza's infrastructure and destroyed over 20 per cent of the Strip's buildings, Israel repeatedly violated international humanitarian law and committed acts that amount to war crimes, and here we recall the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict and stress the need for serious follow-up to ensure accountability for the crimes committed against the Palestinian civilian population. Consequently, we call on you to respond firmly to such threats of war and remind Israel of its responsibilities as an occupying Power.

In this connection, we would like to reaffirm that the only source of conflict and violence remains the ongoing Israeli military occupation, which continues to deny the Palestinian people their most basic rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. As Israel, the occupying Power, maintains an illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip and continues to pound it with bombs, it also maintains its brutal grip on the lives and livelihoods of Palestinians in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly Occupied East Jerusalem, as it continues to pursue illegal and destructive practices. Yesterday, 31 October 2011, Israel, the occupying Power, demolished several homes and structures housing at least 21 Palestinians in the Al-Khan Al-Ahmar area, which has been the target of the continued expansion of the illegal settlement "Maale Adumim". The area's only kindergarten is also threatened with demolition. We reiterate that only an end to this brutal military occupation can stop, once and for all, this persistent state of rising tensions, despair and bloodshed.

In this regard, we welcome the resounding victory for the collective will of the international community, represented by the majority, for Palestine's application for UNESCO membership. This overwhelming, positive vote is actually a vote of support of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination. We consider this vote a historic development that brings us closer to a future of justice and peace in the region, in line with the principles of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 408 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 October 2011 (A/ES-10/536-S/2011/665), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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3 November 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 2 November 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the intensification of the illegal Israeli settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which has been reaffirmed by recent provocative declarations by Israeli officials, including the Prime Minister. In this regard, it is shockingly clear that the recent decision announced by the Israeli Government of its intention to accelerate settlement activities, including the construction of at least 2,000 new settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem, is a retaliatory measure being undertaken by the occupying Power to collectively punish the Palestinian people and their leadership following the admittance of Palestine as a Member State to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 31 October 2011.

There can be no question that Israel, the occupying Power, is deliberately pursuing this illegal colonization campaign to alter the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and particularly Occupied East Jerusalem, in order to entrench the occupying Power's presence and its control of the lands it has occupied since June 1967 in order to facilitate its unlawful de facto annexation and prejudge the outcome of negotiations between the two sides. Now, it is also clear that the occupying Power is using this illegal practice as an aggressive punitive measure in what can be viewed as the Israeli Government's official version of the repugnant "price tag" policy so viciously used by the illegal Israeli settlers against the Palestinian people and their property. The result: in tandem, the Israeli Government and its settlers are not only destroying the contiguity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, but accelerating the destruction of the peace process and of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

This unlawful and destructive Israeli settlement campaign must be stopped if we are to salvage the prospects for achieving the Security Council's vision of two States of Israel and Palestine living side by side within secure and recognized

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borders on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. Israel's absolute and deliberate contempt for international law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map and the firm position of the international community on this matter must not go without consequence. Only determined and clear action by the international community, including the Security Council, can send the necessary message to the occupying Power of the global rejection of this illegal campaign and the demand for it to stop immediately and completely.

The Palestinian leadership thus calls on the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities under the Charter, to uphold its resolutions on this critical issue and to act forthwith to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its illegal actions. Israel's illegal activities and incessant aggression, violation and provocations against the Palestinian people and their leadership are raising tensions and destabilizing the situation on the ground, clearly threatening peace and security in our region, with undeniable consequences for international peace and security. It is thus the duty of the Council to urgently and appropriately address this issue.

Israel's defiance of the law and of the international community cannot continue to go unaddressed. It is the failure to hold Israel accountable for this defiance that has allowed it to persist with the impunity that has deepened the conflict and undermined all efforts to resume the peace process, including the recent efforts by the Quartet members in this regard. Moreover, it has ensured that Palestine's cooperation with the efforts to revive negotiations between the two sides on the basis of clear parameters and its commitment to the long-agreed terms of reference for the peace process, continue to be met only by Israeli violations, provocations and incitement. In this regard, I must also draw your attention to the decision of Israel to withhold the transfer of funds to the Palestinian National Authority, also as a punishment for the recent steps in UNESCO. These funds are monies collected by the occupying Power in the form of duties on goods that must transit through ports controlled by Israel and are destined for Palestinian markets, and the occupying Power is in no way entitled to those funds or to their obstruction. As in the past, we firmly reject this form of retaliation and collective punishment and call on Israel to release all Palestinian funds forthwith.

In closing, we stress that Palestine's application and admission to membership in UNESCO is consistent with its commitment to and respect for the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations and the principles enshrined therein and our commitment to the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. We reaffirm the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the independence of their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and reaffirm the legal, natural and historic right of our State of Palestine to take its rightful place among the community of nations. We appeal to the Security Council and all Member States of the General Assembly to stand by Palestine at this critical juncture and to uphold their legal obligations to ensure the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people and to ensure an end to this conflict and the achievement of peace and security for Palestine, Israel and the Middle East region as a whole.

Indeed, a viable and definitive solution to the conflict can only be achieved on the basis of international legitimacy and justice and never on the fleeting power of might over right. The Security Council must uphold its duties in this regard.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 409 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since

28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 November 2011 (A/ES-10/537-S/2011/676) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations